based on power generation from Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) produced from Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) at processing plants of 700 tonnes per day capacity at Hyderabad and 500 tonnes per day capacity each at Guntur and Vijayawada.

(c) and (d) Government is implementing an Accelerated Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban Wastes which provides for financial and promotional incentives for setting up of projects on Energy Recovery from Municipal Solid Wastes. Under this Programme, power projects based on production of RDF from MSW are eligible for capital subsidy of upto Rs. 1.5 crore per MW. APTDC can extend technical support to such projects for processing of MSW for power generation. However, no further projects could be supported on account of a stay by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on further subsidies by Government for projects on energy recovery from MSW.

Production of power from urban and industrial waste

†80. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study regarding production of power from urban and industrial waste;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are formulating any action plan for commercial utilization of such waste alongwith its disposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The National Master Plan for development of Waste-to-Energy in India has indicated an estimated potential in the country for generation of about 2900 MW power from Urban Wastes and about 1300 MW power from Industrial Wastes.

(c) and (d) Programmes are being implemented for setting up of projects for energy recovery from urban and industrial wastes. Under these programmes, various financial and promotional incentives are available for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

setting up of such projects. Capital subsidy varying from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 3.00 crore per MW, varying with type of waste, technology employed and end use application is being provided for setting up of these projects. During a hearing on Writ Petition No. 888 held on May 6, 2005, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has stayed any further subsidies by Government for projects on energy recovery from Municipal Solid Waste. Hence, there is no further progress in this regard.

Steps for improvement in power distribution system

81. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power abundance and deprivation go together in the country as electricity surplus States are unable to light up their villages as they sell all they have,

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country's power distribution system still suffers high aggregate technical and commercial losses with a national average of 40 per cent; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the power distribution system in India?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHUKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. Some of the States sell power to other States depending on the convenience and availability of short-term open access in the transmission system. Supply of electricity is a State subject as Section 6 of the Electricity Act, 2003, provides that the State Government shall endeavour to supply electricity to all areas including villages and hamlets.

(b) As per report prepared by Power Finance Corporation, Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses of the State power distribution utilities at national level for the year 2004-05 were 33.82%.

(c) Various steps taken by Government of India to reduce the losses of State Power Utilities and thereby improving the power distribution system are:

(i) Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) was launched in 2002-03 under which Additional Central Assistance was provided to States for taking up technical and commercial measures for strengthening and upgradation of distribution network, improvement in billing and